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March 1, 2018

## A Setback for Civil Rights



Dear Friends,

My life was fundamentally altered by the Americans with Disabilities Act when it passed in 1990. Ten years earlier, when I was 16 years old, I had become paralyzed and I faced many obstacles because public places didn't accommodate a wheelchair.

However, with the enactment of the ADA, my world opened up. Suddenly I and millions of people with disabilities nationwide could no longer be excluded from society. For the first time, we couldn't be fired because of our circumstances. For the first time, we had access to public buildings, communications and transportation systems. The barriers began to come down.

Throughout my time in Congress, I have championed the gains we made under the ADA. But after decades of progress, the ADA is under attack.

The House [recently passed H.R. 620](#), the misnamed "ADA Education and Reform Act." The bill changes the very nature of the ADA by

Join the Conversation:



### Save The Date

#### LUNCH WITH LANGEVIN

*Quarterly opportunity to share concerns and feedback one-on-one*

Saturday, March 3  
12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
Filippou's Twisted Pizza  
28 Old Tower Hill Road  
Wakefield

### Did You Know...?

#### TOUR THE CAPITOL

Interested in visiting Washington, DC? Rep. Langevin's office can help set up tours of the Capitol, the White House and other government sites. >>

#### FAST FACT

Going into March Madness, the University of Rhode Island won its first regular-season Atlantic 10 title. >>

### In Other News

#### FILING FOR FREE

requiring compliance with its provisions only after a four month "notice and cure period." No other civil rights law has such an onerous process before an individual can act to stop discrimination. The ADA has been part of our legal framework for nearly 30 years. Delaying justice for people seeking reasonable accommodations under the law will only encourage noncompliance.

While I'm deeply troubled that this bill cleared the House, the fight isn't over. I'm hopeful the Senate will realize the potential harm H.R. 620 poses to individuals with disabilities and reject this dangerous bill. With the steadfast commitment of leaders like Senator Tammy Duckworth, we can preserve and protect the ADA for generations to come.

You can learn more about my efforts protecting civil rights on [my website](#) and by following me on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) and [Instagram](#).

Sincerely,

*Jim Langevin*



### Offshore Drilling

A single oil spill could devastate Rhode Island's treasured waters, marine ecosystems and coastline, which is why the Department of the Interior's plan to allow drilling off our coast is so dangerous. We can't jeopardize the natural resource on which our state so heavily relies. To emphasize my opposition to this misguided proposal, I joined federal, state and local environmental leaders at the University of Rhode Island Bay Campus where we highlighted the dangerous effects offshore drilling could have on the state.



### Cyber Aware

As we increasingly use the Internet in our everyday lives, it is more important than ever to practice safe cybersecurity habits. But knowing ways to protect yourself online can be difficult – which is why I organized a cybersecurity awareness event at the Johnston Senior Center. Over 70 people of all ages came to hear from local leaders about how to stay safe online, and

Rep. Langevin kicked off the IRS Free File program that provides free federal and state tax preparation. >>

### INCENTIVIZING SAFETY

Rep. Langevin commemorated the 15th anniversary of The Station nightclub fire and highlighted the recent enactment of tax incentives encouraging the installation of fire sprinklers. >>

### PROTECTING ELECTIONS

Rep. Langevin joined his colleagues on the Congressional Task Force on Election Security to unveil the Task Force's final report detailing ways to better protect our elections. >>

### IN THE ARENA

Rep. Langevin appeared on ABC 6's *In The Arena* to discuss a variety of topics, including the State of the Union, infrastructure, career and technical education and more. >>

### AIR TRAVEL FOR ALL

Rep. Langevin introduced the Air Carrier Access Amendments Act, a bill to improve air travel for passengers with disabilities. >>

### RECOGNIZING CTE

Rep. Langevin introduced a bipartisan resolution recognizing National Career and Technical Education Month, which is celebrated every February. >>

### TRANSITIONING TO INDEPENDENCE

Rep. Langevin introduced bipartisan legislation to expand opportunities for disabled individuals to find competitive, integrated

because of the great turnout, I will be hosting employment. >>  
more of these educational events in the coming  
months.

PRIVACY STATEMENT:

This is an official email from Congressman Jim Langevin. You have received this email by signing up on my website for periodic updates to your email account.

If you have not received this email directly, I invite you to join other Rhode Islanders in the Second Congressional District in [signing up for my email updates](#). Please know that because I respect your privacy, your information will never be shared or sold. Also, updates will not overwhelm your email inbox.

If you no longer wish to receive these updates, you may [unsubscribe](#).